
RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATIENT MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

To define the responsibility for patient health care management in an emergency. Within the ICEMA region, in the event both public and private emergency medical care personnel arrive on the scene with the same qualifications, patient management responsibility will rest with the first to arrive.

AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 5, Section 1798.6 (a & c)

a) Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include any paramedic or other pre-hospital emergency personnel, at the scene of the emergency who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care.

If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency.

(c) Authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in determination of relevant risks.

PROCEDURE

1. An EMT-P may transfer patient management responsibility to an EMT-I for transportation, **without Base Hospital direction**, only under the following conditions:
 - a. When the patient does not meet criteria for Base Hospital contact and has not received ALS care
 - b. When operating under the MCI Protocol, Reference #12001
 - c. When operating under the Local Medical Emergency Protocol, Reference #14029
2. The Base Hospital should be contacted if at any time transfer of patient management responsibility is in question or for any patient not meeting the above criteria.
3. In the event of radio communication failure, an ALS unit may not transfer patient management responsibility to an EMT-I for transportation.